

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Pursuant to 37 CFR §121(c), the claim listing, including the text of the claims, will serve to replace all prior versions of the claims in the application.

Please amend Claims 1, 4-7, 10-15, 19, 21-22, 25-27, 31, 33-34 and 37 and cancel Claims 2, 3, 16-18 and 28-30 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A secondary battery, comprising:

an electrode unit having a first electrode plate, a second electrode plate, a separator interposed therebetween, and first and second electrode tabs respectively extending from the first and second electrode plates;

a can adapted to accommodate the electrode unit and an electrolytic solution; and

a cap plate adapted to seal the can and having an electrolytic solution inlet, ~~wherein~~ a first area of a first opening of the electrolytic solution inlet has an area on [[one]] a first surface of the cap plate being different from that on another a second area of a second opening of the electrolytic solution inlet on a second surface of the cap plate, the first surface of the cap plate and the second surface of the cap plate opposite to and being spaced apart from the electrode unit, with the first surface facing to an exterior of the secondary battery and the second surface facing to the electrode unit, and with the first area being smaller than the second area.

2. (Cancelled)

1 3. (Cancelled)

1 4. (Currently Amended) The secondary battery of claim 1, further comprising [[a]] at least
2 one channel adapted to facilitate injection of an electrolytic solution in the neighborhood of the
3 electrolytic solution inlet.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The secondary battery of claim 4, wherein one end of the channel
2 is integrated and connected to the electrolytic solution inlet.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The secondary battery of claim [[4]] 5, wherein the channel is
2 linearly shaped and arranged ~~spirally~~ radially in the neighborhood of the electrolytic solution inlet.

1 7. (Currently Amended) The secondary battery of claim 4, wherein the channel has a depth
2 in a range of 0.1mm to 0.5 mm.

1 8. (Original) The secondary battery of claim 1, wherein the electrolytic solution inlet has
2 a sloping cross-section.

1 9. (Withdrawn) The secondary battery of claim 1, wherein the electrolytic solution inlet has
2 a stepped portion recessed to a predetermined depth in the neighborhood of the electrolytic solution
3 inlet.

1 10. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The secondary battery of claim 9, wherein the
2 stepped portion has a depth in a range of 0.1mm to 0.5 mm.

1 11. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The secondary battery of claim 1, wherein the first
2 electrode tab is electrically connected to a terminal pin which is physically connected to the cap plate
3 and ~~arranged to be~~ electrically insulated ~~therefrom~~ from the cap plate, and the second electrode tab
4 is welded to the cap plate at a position between the terminal pin and the electrolytic solution inlet.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The secondary battery of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ with the first electrode
2 tab ~~[[is]]~~ being electrically connected to a terminal pin which is physically connected to the cap plate
3 and ~~arranged to be~~ electrically insulated ~~therefrom~~ from the cap plate, ~~[[and]]~~ the second electrode
4 tab ~~[[is]]~~ being welded to the cap plate at a first position ~~opposite to the electrolytic solution inlet~~
5 ~~with respect to the terminal pin and the terminal pin being disposed between the electrolytic solution~~
6 inlet and the first position.

1 13. (Currently Amended) The secondary battery of claim 12, further comprising a safety
2 vent arranged at a second position, the second electrode tab being disposed between the terminal pin
3 and the second position ~~opposite to the terminal pin with respect to the second electrode tab of the~~
4 cap plate, and the safety vent being adapted to rupture when the internal pressure of the sealed can
5 increases to a level greater than a predetermined allowed level.

1 14. (Currently Amended) A secondary battery, comprising:

2 an electrode unit having a first electrode plate, a second electrode plate, a separator
3 interposed therebetween, and first and second electrode tabs respectively extending from the first and
4 second electrode plates;

5 a can adapted to ~~accommodate~~ encase the electrode unit and an electrolytic solution;

6 a cap plate adapted to seal the can;

7 a terminal pin ~~connected so as to be insulated from the cap plate to which the first electrode~~
8 ~~tab is electrically connected~~ electrically connected to the first electrode tab and physically connected
9 to and electrically insulated from the cap plate; [[and]]

10 an insulating plate provided on ~~an inner~~ a second surface of the cap plate and extending in
11 ~~[[one]]~~ a direction ~~[[of]]~~ along which the cap plate extends and arranged to insulate the terminal pin
12 from the cap plate; and

13 ~~wherein the second electrode tab [[is]] being welded to the cap plate at a position, the~~
14 terminal pin being disposed between an electrolytic solution inlet and the second electrode tab, a first
15 area of a first opening of the electrolytic solution inlet on a first surface of the cap plate being
16 different from a second area of a second opening of an injection hole on the second surface of the
17 cap plate, the first surface of the cap plate and the second surface of the cap plate opposite to and
18 spaced apart from the electrode unit, the first surface facing to an exterior of the secondary battery
19 and the second surface facing to the electrode unit, and with the first area being smaller than the
20 second area opposite to the electrolytic solution inlet with respect to the terminal pin.

1 15. (Currently Amended) The secondary battery of claim 14, ~~further comprising an~~ with the
2 electrolytic solution inlet being arranged to overlap the insulating plate, and ~~[[an]]~~ the injection hole
3 disposed corresponding to the electrolytic solution inlet arranged in the insulating plate.

1 16. (Cancelled)

1 17. (Cancelled)

1 18. (Cancelled)

1 19. (Currently Amended) The secondary battery of claim 15, further comprising ~~[[a]]~~ at least
2 one channel adapted to facilitate injection of an electrolytic solution in the neighborhood of the
3 injection hole.

1 20. (Original) The secondary battery of claim 19, wherein one end of the channel is
2 connected to the injection hole.

1 21. (Currently Amended) The secondary battery of claim ~~[[19]]~~ 20, wherein the channel is
2 linearly shaped and arranged ~~spirally~~ radially in the neighborhood of the injection hole.

1 22. (Currently Amended) The secondary battery of claim 19, wherein the channel has a
2 depth in a range of 0.1mm to 0.5 mm.

1 23. (Original) The secondary battery of claim 15, wherein the injection hole has a sloping
2 cross-section.

1 24. (Withdrawn) The secondary battery of claim 15, wherein a stepped portion recessed to
2 a predetermined depth is arranged in the neighborhood of the injection hole.

1 25. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The secondary battery of claim 24, wherein the
2 stepped portion has a depth in a range of 0.1 mm to 0.5 mm.

1 26. (Currently Amended) The secondary battery of claim 14, further comprising a safety
2 vent arranged at a position, the second electrode tab being disposed between the terminal pin and the
3 position ~~opposite to the terminal pin with respect to the second electrode tab of the cap plate, and~~
4 the safety vent adapted to rupture when the internal pressure of the sealed can increases so as to be
5 greater than a predetermined allowed level.

1 27. (Currently Amended) A secondary battery, comprising:
2 an electrode unit having a first electrode plate, a second electrode plate, a separator
3 interposed therebetween, and first and second electrode tabs respectively extending from the first and

second electrode plates;

a can adapted to ~~accommodate~~ encase the electrode unit and an electrolytic solution;

a cap plate adapted to seal the can and, said cap plate having an electrolytic solution inlet;

a terminal pin ~~connected so as to be insulated from the cap plate to which the first electrode tab is electrically connected~~ electrically connected to the first electrode tab and physically connected to and electrically insulated from the cap plate; [[and]]

an insulating plate arranged on ~~an inner~~ a second surface of the cap plate ~~[[and]], said insulating plate~~ extending in one direction of the cap plate and ~~adapted to insulate~~ insulating the terminal pin from the cap plate; and

~~wherein~~ the electrolytic solution inlet ~~[[is]]~~ being arranged to overlap the insulating plate, and an injection hole ~~disposed corresponding to~~ in correspondence with the electrolytic solution inlet, the electrolytic solution inlet [[is]] being positioned ~~arranged~~ in the insulating plate, a first area of a first opening of the electrolytic solution inlet on a first surface of the insulating plate being different from a second area of a second opening of the injection hole on a second surface of the cap plate, the first surface of the cap place and the second surface of the cap plate opposite to and spaced apart from the electrode unit, the first surface facing to an exterior of the secondary battery and the second surface facing to the electrode unit, and the first area being smaller than the second area.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

1 30. (Cancelled)

1 31. (Currently Amended) The secondary battery of claim 27, further comprising [[a]] at
2 least one channel adapted to facilitate injection of an electrolytic solution in the neighborhood of the
3 injection hole.

1 32. (Original) The secondary battery of claim 31, wherein one end of the channel is
2 connected to the injection hole.

1 33. (Currently Amended) The secondary battery of claim [[31]] 32, wherein the channel is
2 linearly shaped and arranged ~~spirally~~ radially in the neighborhood of the injection.

1 34. (Currently Amended) The secondary battery of claim 31, wherein the channel has a
2 depth in a range of 0.1mm to 0.5 mm.

1 35. (Original) The secondary battery of claim 27, wherein the injection hole has a sloping
2 cross-section.

1 36. (Withdrawn) The secondary battery of claim 27, wherein a stepped portion recessed to
2 a predetermined depth is arranged in the neighborhood of the injection hole.

1 37. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The secondary battery of claim 36, wherein the
2 stepped portion has a depth in a range of 0.1mm to 0.5 mm.